

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



The Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan is being led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify the actions needed to restore the ecosystem functions, mitigate habitat losses, and recover native fish and wildlife on the Missouri River, while seeking balance with social, economic and cultural values for future generations. The Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan will provide a long-term plan for restoration, mitigation and recovery needs.

The planning process will identify and describe a vision for the river and evaluate methods of reaching that vision. As part of the process, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will produce an environmental impact statement that analyzes environmental effects of restoration activities recommended in the plan. The environmental impact statement will inform decision makers about the impacts and benefits of a range of reasonable alternatives. Ultimately, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will select and implement a plan resulting from this process.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to delivering enduring and essential water resource solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders. As such, the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan will be developed in consultation with the following entities:

- Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee, a committee formed to provide guidance to the Secretary of the Army on matters regarding the recovery of the Missouri River;
- Federal and state agencies and tribal governments that have jurisdictional authority or special expertise to participate as formal cooperating agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act;
- Tribes, through government to government consultation; and
- Other basin stakeholders.

The intent of these engagement efforts is to help align the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan with federal, state, and tribal natural and cultural resource goals, regulations, and policies while meeting the needs of the basin stakeholders.

Benefits of the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Working collaboratively to develop a plan will give tribes, federal and state agencies, and basin stakeholders an opportunity to:

- Identify criteria and opportunities for future restoration projects.
- Participate in a process that prioritizes restoration efforts.
- Encourage partnerships to develop and implement restoration efforts.
- Align restoration and recovery projects, programs and policies across government agencies and tribes.
- Actively engage in the design of a basin-wide plan for restoring the Missouri River.
- Develop more sustainable and system-wide approaches to restoration.



Working Together for Restoration

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will prepare the plan in consultation with other federal and state agencies, basin Tribes and many other basin stakeholders, including the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believe collaboration through the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan process can facilitate mutual understanding of management opportunities and minimize future uncertainties over river restoration efforts. The collaborative process is expected to result in the most effective and feasible alternatives for river restoration, mitigation and recovery goals.



Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan Roadmap

Estimated
Timeline

Initiate Planning

- 1) Develop Partnerships and Prepare for the Study
- 2) Establish Study Rationale and Focus

2008 / 2009

Study the Affected Environment

- 3) Assess Resource Conditions
- 4) Evaluate Future Issues and Situation

2009 / 2010

Consider the Alternatives

- 5) Formulate Restoration and Adaptive Management Alternatives
- 6) Compare Impacts of Alternatives
- 7) Consider Preferred Alternative

2010 / 2012

Select the Plan

- 8) Publish Draft Integrated MRERP & EIS
- 9) Revise Integrated MRERP & EIS
- 10) Publish Final Integrated MRERP & EIS and Record of Decision

2014 / 2016

For more information on the
Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan, please contact:

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For more information on the
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www.mrerp.org.